

**H. CON. RES. 331, COMMENDING ISRAEL'S  
REDEPLOYMENT FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON**

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**MARKUP**  
BEFORE THE  
**COMMITTEE ON  
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
ONE HUNDRED SIXTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

MAY 24, 2000

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## **H. CON. RES. 331, COMMENDING ISRAEL'S REDEPLOYMENT FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 24, 2000**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,  
*Washington, DC.*

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 4:37 p.m. In Room H-139, The Capitol, Hon. Benjamin A. Gilman (Chairman of the Committee) presiding.

Chairman GILMAN. The Committee will come to order.

The Committee on International Relations meets in open session, pursuant to notice, to mark up House Concurrent Resolution 331.

The Chair lays the resolution before the Committee. The clerk will report the title of the resolution.

Mr. WEINBERG. House Concurrent Resolution 331. Concurrent resolution—

Chairman GILMAN. Without objection, the preamble and operative language of the resolution will be read in that order for amendment. The clerk will read.

Mr. WEINBERG. Whereas Israel has been actively seeking a comprehensive—

Chairman GILMAN. Without objection, the resolution is considered as having been read and is open to amendment at any point.

[The bill appears in the appendix.]

Chairman GILMAN. This resolution is in the original jurisdiction of the Full Committee. I would now recognize myself briefly to introduce this resolution.

H. Con. Res. 331, a concurrent resolution introduced by our distinguished Majority Leader, Mr. Armey of Texas, commends Israel's decision to withdraw its forces from southern Lebanon.

I was more than pleased to lend my cosponsorship and strong support to this resolution, which also calls on the U.N. Security Council to recognize Israel's fulfillment of Resolution 425, and to insist that all foreign forces be withdrawn from Lebanon.

Also cosponsoring H. Con. Res. 331 are the distinguished Minority Leader, Mr. Gephardt of Missouri, as well as our Ranking Minority Member of our House International Relations Committee, Mr. Gejdenson of Connecticut.

Israel's courageous decision to pull out of Lebanon demonstrates its strong commitment to a peaceful resolution to the conflicts that trouble the region.

By withdrawing from Lebanon, Israel will be in full compliance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 425.

A major priority of ours is to affirm Israel's right, as noted in Chapter 7, Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, to defend itself and its civilians from attack. I am pleased that in H. Con. Res. 331 we are sending a strong bipartisan message of peace and stability to the region, and I urge our colleagues to fully support this important and timely resolution.

Mr. Gejdenson?

Mr. GEJDENSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to commend you for moving this resolution as rapidly as we are.

I want to say that Israel, with Prime Minister Barak and his commitment during the campaign to remove Israeli forces from Lebanon, has fulfilled that obligation; and I think we are appropriate in commending the Israelis for this action that has I think begun, a process of Lebanon taking full control of its own territory.

The United States and the United Nations should do everything they can to assist Lebanon in taking over full control of its territory, removing all the foreign entities and controlling all internal entities. Clearly, Hezbollah should recognize this as an opportunity to take peaceful political actions. Additionally, countries in the region, particularly Syria, I think, have to be warned that if they try to use this as an opportunity for creating mischief, they will pay a terrible price in the international community, let alone any reaction by the Israelis.

The unanimous position of the Arab world and much of the world indeed has been that Israel should withdraw from Lebanon; and now that it has done so, it would be particularly outrageous if we see the Syrians trying to cause additional trouble along that border. To the contrary, the Syrians ought to figure out how to help Lebanon pull itself together and pull their forces out of Lebanon. Obviously, this is something that many people have worked on for a long time. Lebanon is a country that suffered tremendously through the years, and we should use this as an opportunity to help the Lebanese rebuild their society.

Chairman GILMAN. Thank you, Mr. Gejdenson.

Are any other Members seeking recognition?

If not, I call on the gentleman from New York, Mr. King, to offer a motion.

Mr. KING. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Chairman be requested to seek consideration of the pending resolution on the suspension calendar.

Chairman GILMAN. The question is on the motion of the gentleman from New York, Mr. King. As many as are in favor of the motion, say aye. As many as are opposed, say no.

The ayes have it. The motion is agreed to. Further proceedings on this measure are postponed.

Mr. HASTINGS. I would like to have my name added as a cosponsor.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Wexler would like his name added.

Chairman GILMAN. Mr. Wexler, Mr. Hastings, Mr. Cooksey, and Mr. King also want to be added.

Mr. GEJDENSON. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have an opportunity to submit additional statements for the record.

Chairman GILMAN. Without objection.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman GILMAN. The Committee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 4:43 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]





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## **A P P E N D I X**

MAY 24, 2000

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106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 331

Commending Israel's redeployment from southern Lebanon.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2000

Mr. ARMEY (for himself, Mr. GEPHARDT, Mr. GILMAN, and Mr. GEJDENSON)  
submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the  
Committee on International Relations

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commending Israel's redeployment from southern Lebanon.

Whereas Israel has been actively seeking a comprehensive  
peace with all of her neighbors to bring about an end to  
the Arab-Israeli conflict;

Whereas southern Lebanon has for decades been the staging  
area for attacks against Israeli cities and towns by  
Hezbollah and by Palestinian terrorists, resulting in the  
death or wounding of hundreds of Israeli civilians;

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 425  
(March 19, 1978) calls upon Israel to withdraw its forces  
from all Lebanese territory;

Whereas the Government of Israel unanimously agreed to im-  
plement Security Council Resolution 425 and has stated

its intention of redeploying its forces to the international border by July 7, 2000;

Whereas Security Council Resolution 425 also calls for “strict respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries” and establishes a United Nations interim force to help restore Lebanese sovereignty; and

Whereas the Government of Syria currently deploys 30,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
2       *concurring)*, That Congress—

3               (1) commends Israel for its decision to with-  
4       draw its forces from southern Lebanon and for tak-  
5       ing risks for peace in the Middle East;

6               (2) calls upon the United Nations Security  
7       Council—

8                       (A) to recognize Israel’s fulfillment of its  
9               obligations under Security Council Resolution  
10           425 and to provide the necessary resources for  
11           the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon  
12           (UNIFIL) to implement its mandate under that  
13           resolution; and

14                    (B) insist upon the withdrawal of all for-  
15           eign forces from Lebanese territory so that  
16           Lebanon may exercise sovereignty throughout  
17           its territory;

1           (3) urges UNIFIL, in cooperation with the  
2       Lebanese Armed Forces, to gain full control over  
3       southern Lebanon, including taking actions to en-  
4       sure the disarmament of Hezbollah and all other  
5       such groups, in order to eliminate all terrorist activ-  
6       ity originating from that area;

7           (4) appeals to the Government of Lebanon to  
8       grant clemency and assure the safety and rehabilita-  
9       tion into Lebanese society of all members of the  
10      South Lebanon Army and their families;

11          (5) calls upon the international community to  
12      ensure that southern Lebanon does not once again  
13      become a staging ground for attacks against Israel  
14      and to cooperate in bringing about the reconstruc-  
15      tion and reintegration of southern Lebanon;

16          (6) recognizes Israel's right, enshrined in chap-  
17      ter 7, article 51 of the United Nations Charter, to  
18      defend itself and its people from attack and re-  
19      asserts United States support for maintaining  
20      Israel's qualitative military edge in order to ensure  
21      Israel's long-term security; and

22          (7) urges all parties to reenter the peace proc-  
23      ess with the Government of Israel in order to bring  
24      peace and stability to all the Middle East.

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